

House Resolution 2026

By: Representatives Lunsford of the 110th, Richardson of the 19th, Keen of the 179th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Fleming of the 117th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, John Phillip Yates was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1921, one of
3 seven children born to L. Lamar Yates and Eunice Griffin Yates in Spalding County,
4 Georgia. Annie Harris Yates was born February 17, 1923, in Pike County, Georgia, one of
5 eight children born to Emory Harris and Jesse Ogletree Harris; and

6 WHEREAS, John Yates met Annie Harris in Pomona Methodist Church in 1940. John fell
7 in love with her beautiful brown eyes and her piano playing. She was bowled over with his
8 big blue eyes. They were married on February 17, 1942, in Yuma, Arizona. They are the
9 parents of three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. John graduated
10 from Spalding High School and Georgia State University. Annie graduated from Milner
11 High School and a business school; and

12 WHEREAS, John entered the Army in World War II as a private and was a captain at war's
13 end. He was a Liaison Pilot, directing artillery fire from a Piper Cub airplane in Europe. He
14 was awarded the Air Medal six times for 210 flights in combat; and

15 WHEREAS, John and Annie Yates are patriotic Americans who are always striving for the
16 security and freedom of all. John has been honored for his military service and for playing
17 a key role in the opening of the battle lines at the Battle of the Bulge and being a military
18 observer of the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp; and

19 WHEREAS, after the war, John worked for 35 years with Ford Motor Company, ending his
20 career as manager of the Los Angeles Parts Distribution Center. Annie was an accountant
21 and homemaker; and

1 WHEREAS, John is serving the people of his district as a member of the Georgia House of
2 Representatives. He is chairman of the Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee and a
3 member of the Appropriations Committee, the Higher Education Subcommittee of
4 Appropriations, the Motor Vehicles Committee, and the Reapportionment Committee. He
5 has served for 16 years, representing more than 50,000 citizens. He has helped many citizens
6 through problems with government. Education has been a top priority for John and he has
7 helped secure funding for Griffin Technical College and for other educational institutions in
8 his district. Perhaps his greatest achievement in his work was helping to bring the University
9 of Georgia's Griffin Campus into existence; and

10 WHEREAS, John joined Pomona Methodist Church at age eight and was a member from
11 1929 to 1960. They retired in 1981 and returned to the farm on which John was born and on
12 which they now live. John continues his agricultural endeavors, providing fresh vegetables
13 and berries to friends and neighbors throughout the seasons of each year. He rejoined his
14 home church in 1981 and has worked hard in several positions since, including treasurer for
15 more than 20 years, member of board of trustees, Sunday school teacher, as well as having
16 written the church history and leading the building of a walking trail. Annie has been a
17 member for many years, serving in many local and district positions with the United
18 Methodist Women and leading the church choir. She also was church organist for many
19 years. When work was to be done at the church, John and Annie always were valuable
20 participants, raking leaves, moving grass, baking cakes, cooking pancakes, and installing a
21 sprinkler system. Annie is a superb cook and loves to entertain friends; and

22 WHEREAS, John and Annie Yates were in the movie *Murder in Coweta County*, a portion
23 of which was filmed at Pomona United Methodist Church. Both exercised their musical
24 talents in the movie; and

25 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates be commended
26 for their contributions and many years of service to their church, community, and state.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body commend Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates for their many years
29 of service to others and their devotion to each other through almost 65 years of marriage.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable and Mrs. John P.
3 Yates.